



The New River Improvement Project



A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

California Department of Toxics and Substance Control
El Centro Field Office
627 Wake Ave.
El Centro, 92243

Thursday, February 17, 2011
Noon

Meeting Notes

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions.** New River Improvement Project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Ricardo Martinez (California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)) called the meeting to order by phone at 12:10 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. The group made a special welcome to promotoras Esther Bejarana, Veronica Hinojosa, and Bianka Velez. In attendance were the following committee members /designees/alternates: Ema Rosa Silva (Calexico Community Representative/ Vecinos de Calexico), Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee), Roger Vintze (California Department of Toxics and Substance Control), Leon Lesicka (Citizens Congressional Task Force on the New River), Jose Angel (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Luis Olmedo (Comité Cívico del Valle), and Steve Charlton (Imperial Irrigation District designee). In attendance by phone were Dr. Marilyn Underwood (California Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Branch), Daniel Garza (California Environmental Protection Agency alternate), and Jonathan Ballard (U.S. General Services Administration. Committee members unable to attend included Michael Flores (California Department of Fish and Game designee), Frank Gonzalez (CalTrans), Luis Estrada (City of Calexico), Carlos Maturino (City of Calexico alternate), Andy Horne (County of Imperial designee), Linsey Dale (Imperial County Farm Bureau), Lisa Santana (International Boundary and Water Commission), Rebecca Little Owl (International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) alternate), Antonio Ortega (Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez, designee), and Eduardo Demesa (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). Also in attendance were Carlos Angulo (CalEPA – by phone), Trevor Taniguchi (CalEPA by phone), Logan Raub (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter (Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez, designee), (Kevin Wholmut (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Ed DeMesa – by phone), Ozzie Morales (California Department of Toxics and Substance Control), John McCaull (consultant – by phone), William Roller (Imperial Valley Press), and facilitators Carl Nettleton and Gabriela Coverdale (Nettleton Strategies).
- 2) **Acceptance of Meeting Notes of January 27, 2011, Meeting.** Upon motion Figueroa, second Silva, the notes from the February 10, 2011, meeting were unanimously accepted.
- 3) **TAC Chair Update.** Ricardo Martinez was online and reported that notices had gone out for

the meeting, and could be found on three places on the CalEPA web site. He asked Jose Angel to provide any additional updates. Jose reported that he presented on behalf of the Technical Advisory Committee at the Imperial Intergrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) meeting this morning (February 17), thanks to an invitation from Luis Olmedo. He reported that it was a good meeting to provide information about the Strategic Planning process to a group that has been primarily focused on funding drinking water projects. One of the projects presented, however, was for the Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant. The IRWMP process could be helpful in directing Proposition 84 funding to New River projects.

- 4) **Dry Run for February Public Meeting.** Review and a dry-run of the public meetings (s) were pursued by the TAC. The meeting room was arranged as it will be at the actual public meetings, with the work group boards distributed around the room.
 - a) The PowerPoint presentation was made as it will be for the public meetings and approved with minor modifications.
 - b) The talking points were reviewed and agreed upon with minor modifications.
 - c) The logistics matrix was reviewed and approved with minor modifications.
 - d) Other
 - i) Schedules of who will be at which meeting and the role at each meeting need to be finalized.
 - ii) Roger Vintze offered the DTSC's Wake Street offices to store meeting materials.
 - iii) The decision was made to allow collect calls to CalEPA for those who have comments and can't afford the long distance call to Sacramento.
- 5) **Discuss Strategic Plan Scheduling** This item was deferred to the March 10 meeting.
- 6) **Next Steps.** The next steps are basically to conduct the public meetings. In addition, flood plain sampling has been delayed, but is expected to start soon.
- 7) **Next Meeting(s).** Public meetings February 23 and 24, 2011.
- 8) **Next Regular TAC Meeting.** March 10, 2011, 2:00 p.m., California Department of Toxics and Substance Control, El Centro Field Office, 627 Wake Ave., El Centro, 92243
- 9) **Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.